

To: Pruitt, Scott[Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]
Cc: Martha Jones[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
From: Martha Jones
Sent: Sun 2/26/2017 9:41:49 PM
Subject: EPA from a chemical engineer's perspective

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

I have a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Cornell. I have done summer internships at the EPA, DOE, with DuPont, with ICI (now defunct chemical company in England - but it was their DuPont at the time). I've worked for a big manufacturing facility for the last 20 years. I'm old enough to remember exhaust fumes getting overwhelming when sitting in traffic (you know, when all cars *didn't* have air conditioning and you got your AC the old fashioned way - by rolling down the windows). I'm not afraid of big industry. But I am afraid of how you will damage the EPA.

I'm very concerned about your positions around deregulation and rolling jobs into the mission statement for the EPA. Every organization has their focus and priorities - the EPA was chartered to protect the environment, first and foremost. So that we have clean water to drink, so that we don't fear swimming in our waterways. So that we can breathe the air outside. So that we don't poison the animals around us (whether or not we choose to eat them).

At the end of the day, the legacy we leave our future families is driven by the choices we make today, every day. Do we fix it or throw it away? Do we recycle the used oil? Do we manage our airborne emissions and restrict pollutants that cross state and international borders? Do we drive our industries to make the responsible choice to preserve and protect, rather than just focus on the bottom line to shareholders? We need the EPA to provide both the carrot and the stick. Regulations provide enough incentive to invest in better process development - to decrease point-of-source pollution creation (don't want to clean it up? Don't create the pollutant in the first place!). We need these additional boundary conditions as part of the expectations for doing business here - or the right development won't happen.

Otherwise - we'll see what I've seen in my travels abroad. That chemical company in England? No birds every seen on the plant. It was *summertime*. The workers would see the acetic acid used in the manufacturing process eat away at their car paint over time. This was in contrast to what I saw at DuPont in TX - they had multiple water treatment ponds, which housed wildlife and some pretty impressive alligators. And herons.

Go visit China. Especially on a nice smoggy day. Go for a run. And then think about quality of life and preserving our environment for our future.

Our environment is worth protecting, not allowing it to be abused. You're now its caretaker, please act like it.

Martha Jones

PS. And a big thank you to your staff, who are invariably the ones who are actually reading through your mail. Please keep your spirits high, many people see the value in what the EPA does.